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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5796
INFO RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 2478
RHEFHLC/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC
RUEAORC/US CUSTOMS AND BORDER PRO WASHINGTON DC

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MADRID PASS TO ASSISTANT ICE ATTACHE EILEEN ESCOTO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OTRA ASEC PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGAL GRANTS COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR CBP MANIECE

REF: USCBP 062022Z APR 07

11. Embassy Lisbon welcomes and grants country clearance for CBP Officer Anthony Maniece, to travel to Lisbon from April 19, 2007 to April 19, 2008. The purpose of the trip is to support the Container Security Initiative (CSI) team in Portugal in providing container security pre-screening for containers destined for the United States.

12. Control Officer in Lisbon is Political/Economic Officer Tiffany McGriff.

CONTACT INFO

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13. Post understands that no further Embassy assistance is requested.

14. TRAVEL TIPS: Taxis are relatively inexpensive. Be sure to ask for a receipt (factura). A "taxi voucher" service is available at the Lisbon airport to arriving passengers. Vouchers are on sale at the Turismo de Lisboa counter located in the terminal. The cost of the voucher depends on the distance of the trip and/or length of time, as well as the type of service required. Fares should not be more than Euros 15.00 from the airport to major hotels in the city.

15. It is possible to use most ATM cards in Multibanco teller machines located throughout Portugal. Although Multibanco does not assess a service charge for this transaction, normal service charges assessed by your own bank will apply. USD 1.00 equals approximately Euro 0.75. The ATM machine will automatically do the exchange.

16. THREAT ASSESSMENT: In light of the current worldwide security situation, all Americans are reminded that it is more important than ever to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness. Be sure to vary your times and routes and avoid patterns in your activities. There are no known specific and credible threats to include violent demonstrations, terrorist or criminal acts that would affect your visit. Personnel under the Chief of Mission's authority will be notified of any security advisories issued during the visit. While in Portugal, if you notice any suspicious activity or have any security concerns, the Embassy's Regional Security Officer (RSO) should be notified as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to contact the Regional Security Office to sign-up.

¶7. Portugal has a relatively low amount of street crime. Violent criminal confrontations and the use of weapons are rare. Burglars and pickpockets are active and visitors are encouraged to safeguard valuables and not carry large amounts of cash or unneeded credit cards. Visitors should also be very careful on crowded streets, in entertainment areas, department stores, restaurants or crowded public transportation. Car crime, such as auto thefts and thefts from vehicles is low. Travelers are warned not to leave valuables in hotel rooms. Eastern European organized crime groups are active in Portugal, but mainly target the immigrant populations. The police and other emergency services in Portugal are adequate. Threat information through the Consular Information Program is available on the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>. In addition to information on the Internet, U.S. travelers may hear recorded information by calling the Department of State in Washington, DC at (202) 647-5225 from their touchtone telephone, or receive information by automated telefax by dialing (202) 647-3300 from their fax machine.

Hoffman